Vol. VIII. Numb. 79

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Pope's finding Part of his Infallibility again, and owning King Charles *the IIId. The Reason why our* French *Faction have not again found their Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience to our preſent Conſtitution, and when 'tis probable they will. On the Proſpect of a War in the* North, *and the Ability of the Confederates to prevent it. On the* French *King's recalling his Troops from* Spain; *and the Hopes of the Faction from both thoſe Occurrences. On the News of the* French *King's Propoſals to renew a Treaty of Peace.*

From Saturday, October 29. to Thursday, November 2. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT News have you by the laſt Mails, *Roger?*

Country-m. Very good News, Maſter; the Pope has found his Infallibility again, which has ſcarce been heard of at *Rome* ſince *Innocent* the XIth dy'd.

Obſ. What do you mean, *Roger?* Speak plain, for I don't love Riddles.

Country-m. The Caſe is plain enough, Maſter: Prince *Eugene*, the Emperor's General, found Part of it in the Field of *Blaregnies*, Part of it in the Camp before *Mons*, and General *Stavemberg* found another Part of it when he paſs'd the *Segra*; and they were ſo generous as to ſend it him in a Packet.

Obſ. But it does not appear by your Account, *Roger*, that the Pope has recover'd the whole of it.

Country-m. He has found enough, Maſter, to own *Charles* the VIId as Catholick King of *Spain*, but without Prejudice to the Duke of *Anjou*, as the foreign Gazettes tell us. I ſuppoſe he has ſent his Nuncio to find the reſt of it at the general Treaty of Peace.

Obſ. I hope, *Roger*, that our Faction at Home, who have loſt their Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance ever ſince the Cloſe of 1688, that it went over with King *James* to *France*, will be as happy as the Pope, and find it again here.

Country-m. Why, Maſter, King *William* found a great deal of it at the Battel of the *Boyn*, the Battel of *La Hogue*, in the Camp before *Namur*, and at the Treaty of *Reſwick*; and tho' he was ſo generous as to ſend it Home, there was ſcarce any Body would accept it, but Dr. *Sherlock*, and a few more, for moſt of the reſt ſent it back to *St. Germains*, and there it ſtill keeps its head Quarters; only we have a little of it here, which is kept by our nonjurant Parſons and their Friends, to be publiſh'd now and then in Mr. *Dobb*'s *Paranetes*, to preſerve the Immortality of our Hind-flyers Souls, to attend thoſe of their *Lods* to their Places of Purgation, to diſpute the Queen's legal Prerogative, and the Authority of the Biſhops in Convocation, to ſtuff out *Rehearſals* and the *Exorbitant Grants of King William*, to frame Occaſional Bills and Tacks, to hang upon the Wheels of the Adminiſtration, to fill 30th of *January* Sermons, wherein her Majeſty may be ſilly charg'd with Rebellion and Uſurpation, and to revile the Memory of King *William* and Queen *Mary*.

Obſ. One would have thought, *Roger*, that her Majeſty, by Means of the Duke of *Marlborough*, had found enough of it at *Hochſtedt*, *Ramillies*, *Audenard*, *Liſle*, *Blaregnies*, and *Mons*, to have put thoſe People who had loſt it, in Stock again.

Country-m. You ſay very well, Maſter; but I told you before, they ſend it back to *St. Germains*, as faſt as they receive it, except what they find neceſſary to ſow Diviſions and Animoſities at Home; and this they think themſelves obliged to in Gratitude, towards making that Court an Amends for their Non-Aſſiſtance at the Time of the Revolution, which forc'd King *James* to retire: for the Lives and Fortunes of the Party which they had ſo frequently vow'd ſhou'd be at his Service, had Whig-Padlocks put upon them, and the Faction had not Courage enough to venture at breaking them off.

Obſ. They have been frequently picking at them ſince tho', *Roger*, witneſs the Aſſaſſinations and Invaſions they contriv'd againſt King *William* and her preſent Majeſty, their abſolving the Traytors and Aſſaſſins at the Gallows, and ſending them directly to Heaven, without calling at the Place of Purgation, as *Dod* did.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, give me your Opinion of the Affairs of the *North*; for I perceive the Faction is in Hopes that the Miſts which are gathering there, may wet the Queen and all the Revolution-men to the Skin; that they will caſt ſuch a Cloud over the Family of *Hannover*, as they ſhall never find their Way hither; and that in the mean Time, the Winds which drive the Fogs that Way, will ſo clear the Sky towards *France*, that the Pretender may find a Paſſage over to *Great Britain*, without much Trouble.

Obſ. There's a Froſt begun, *Roger*, that I believe will nip their Hopes in the Bud, clear the *Northern* Hemiſphere of one Plague, and prevent its being infected by another. I told you long ago, that I could never be of Opinion the Confederate Powers would ſuffer the Ballance of the *North* to be broke, or the *Baltick* to be ingroſſ'd by any one Potentate: for as that muſt be ruinous to the Trade of *Great Britain* and *Holland*, it would alſo break the Ballance on this Side of *Europe*, and wreath the Chains of *France* about the Necks of the whole. 'Tis not many Years ſince we oblig'd the *Danes* to deſiſt from their Attempts upon *Sweden* and *Holſtein*; and as the neighbouring Princes would never ſuffer that Crown to ſwallow up the Town of *Hamburgh*, the confederate Powers will far leſs ſuffer them and their Allies to devour all the Dominions of *Sweden*. The Empire, *Great Britain*, and *Holland*, have other Means in their Hands to prevent the Execution of any ſuch Deſign, if their Mediation be rejected. The Czar of *Muſcovy* has heard, no Doubt, that Sir *Jonas Bar* told one of his Predeceſſors, that Queen *Elizabeth* was capable of giving him a warm Viſit at *Archangel*, if he did not do her Juſtice. The *Danes* remember when 'twas in our Power to have laid their *Copenhagen* in Aſhes, and to have made the preſent King of *Sweden* Maſter of their Country. And for any Princes of the Empire, that may be concern'd in the Deſign, they know well enough there's a Thing call'd the *Ban*, that has proſcribed Electors and Princes before now, who have acted contrary to the Intereſt of *Germany*; all which being conſider'd, and that their Dominions are within the Reach of the confederate Powers, it can never enter into any Head, *Roger*, that thoſe Princes will act ſo impolitick a Part, as to venture the Loſs of the Subſtance, by graſping at the Shadow; therefore I make no Doubt but they will liſten to an amicable Accommodation, and leave their Pretenſions to be adjuſted by Treaty; otherwiſe the

the Confederates may ſpeedily ſet up the King of *Sweden* as much above them, as he is now below them; and we have little Reaſon to doubt, but he will prefer their Friendſhip to that of the *Turks* and *Tartars*; for 'tis probable his preſent Afflictions have made him more capable than formerly of liſtening to good Advice. He has ſuffer'd too much by driving Things to an Extremity, to venture at that Game any more.

Country-m. What do you think of this Piece of News, Maſter, that the *French* King is recalling all his Troops from *Spain*, and that King *Philip* thinks himſelf in a Condition to do without them? For I aſſure you the Faction is in Hopes, that the *French* King, by his Troops from *Spain* and *Dauphine*, will be able to make Head againſt us, if not to overmatch us, eſpecially if we have a Diverſion in the *North*.

Ob. They have fed upon Wind all along, *Roger*, which makes them ſo noiſy; but you know that's an infallible Sign of an empty Cask. I need only put you in Mind, that we have taken *Tournay* and *Mons* this Campaign, before their Faces, and fought and beat them into the Bargain; that General *Staremberg* has gain'd Ground upon them on the Side of *Spain*, tho' the *French* Troops were there, and is much more likely to do it, when he is reinforc'd, and they are withdrawn; which takes the Curb out of the Jaws of the *Spaniards*, that are well affected to the Houſe of *Auſtria*. I make no Doubt but ſuch Meaſures will be taken this Winter, as may make *Portugal* and *Savoy* of more Uſe to us next Summer, than they were laſt. You know likewiſe, that we are now better provided with Frontier Garriſons in the *Netherlands*, than at any Time ſince the Revolution; which puts us in a Condition either to invade *France* upon *Terra Firma*, to take more of their Garriſons, or to fight them as ſhall be found moſt convenient. We have likewiſe a Fleet to harraſs their Coaſts by Deſcents and Bombardments, both in the *Channel* and *Mediterranean*. We may alſo perceive by the *French* Jealouſies of the Duke of *Lorrain*, and their threatening to winter in his Country, that they don't think themſelves ſecure on that Side; and ſince *Germany* may now ſee the Danger of having their Candle lighted at both Ends, which will quickly conſume it, we have Reaſon to believe that great Body will exert their natural Strength with more Vigor than hitherto, and enable the Elector of *Hannover* to puſh the Deſign which he form'd ſo well laſt Campaign, to enter the Bowels of *France*.

Country-m. I think, Maſter, you have pretty well expos'd the Vanity of the Faction's Hopes, even humanly ſpeaking: But after all, I take the Millions of Lives that have been loſt by the *French* King's Wickedneſs, Cruelty, Perjury, Tyranny, Uſurpation, and Perſecution, and his Obſtinacy and Hardneſs of Heart, to be a greater Prognoſtick of his Down-fall, than all the Power of the Confederates united againſt him, or the many Blows they have given him; tho' I hope God will make Uſe of 'em to pull down his *Babel* of Tyranny, and bring him to a Level with others. But pray, Maſter, what do you think of the Report, that he makes new Propoſals of Peace?

Ob. Whether it be true or falſe, *Roger*, I believe the Confederates will be no more amus'd with his deceitful Propoſals, nor truſt to his Treaties, 'till he and his Poſterity be made uncapable to break them; for he has fed them up in his own Maxims. The beſt Way to prevent the biting of a ravening Wolf, is to pull out his Teeth. Therefore, as I ſaid formerly, I ſay again, That if the Power of the Eſtates of *France*, and the Edict of *Nants* been't fully reſtor'd, and the Proteſtants repoſſeſs'd of the chief of their cautionary Towns, I can never think that Europe, or the Proteſtant Religion, is ſafe; for I can give you many Inſtances of *France*'s being brought as low, nay, much lower than at preſent, yet the Root of arbitrary Power being left in their Government, their Monarchs always recover'd themſelves by it, to the enſlaving of their own Subjects, and the Danger of all their Neighbours; of which, in its proper Time and Place, *Roger*. I am as much for a Peace, and a ſpeedy one too, as any Man, could we have one that may be ſafe, honourable, and laſting; but to clap up a Peace, like that of *Reſwick*, to only give the *French* King a breathing Time, to renew his Deſign of the Univerſal Monarchy, and his Attempt to force the Pretender upon us, is what, I am ſure, no good *Britain* will ever be for, *Roger*. Since we have him down, let's keep him ſo, and then, and not 'till then, will our hot-brain'd Faction find their Paſſive-Obedience again, and learn to apply it as they ought to do, for the Support of our legal Conſtitution of Queen, Lords, and Commons, and not for the Support of Tyranny and arbitrary Power in a ſingle Perſon; that never yet had, nor never will have any other Effect in *Great Britain*, but to tumble them down from the Throne, who graſp at it, and involve the Nation in Blood and Confuſion.

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